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FILE *Personnel* //

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Peter G. Powers  
General Counsel  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Peter:

As I told you, the Director has corresponded with The Secretary about Vang Pao's jar, and I have cleared it with the Chief of Protocol, who technically has jurisdiction over gifts in Government.

I am sending the enclosed letter from the Director to The Secretary to you as the Chief of Protocol raised one point you should be aware of. In the unlikely event the Smithsonian Institution were ever to surrender possession of the jar, it would have to notify the General Services Administration, which is responsible for the final disposition of such gifts. I see no reason to put this in the enclosed presentation letter, which I trust you will give to Mr. Ripley and do whatever is necessary to establish the gift.

Sincerely,

s/

Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: / DDS  
FE  
D/Logistics